

Military Ethical Decision Making

Objectives

1. Explain the necessity to incorporate personal morals and beliefs when dealing with ethics.
2. Describe military ethical decisions an officer may encounter.
3. List differences and similarities between military and clinical ethical decisions.

Overview

Ethical competence

- moral sensibility
- moral responsiveness
- moral reasoning
- moral character
- moral value
- moral advocacy & leadership

Decision Making Models

Frameworks based on ethics
Guide process
Hypothetical vs. real decisions
Moral judgment
Used day to day
Reflect theoretical perspective

Levels of Ethical Thinking

Systems - world view

Principles - identified

Rules - devised/derived

Decisions - applied

Familiar Techniques for Decision Making

Triage - greatest good

Relationship - social contract, roles

Operational/working -efficiency,
effective

Costs/benefits

Decision tree/probability

Decision matrix/multiple options
- mathematical

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Familiar Techniques for Decision Making

Least desirable option

- amelioration, mediation

Motivational

- altruistic
- pragmatic
- hedonistic

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Familiar Techniques for Decision Making

Emotional

- sensory
- language
- bias

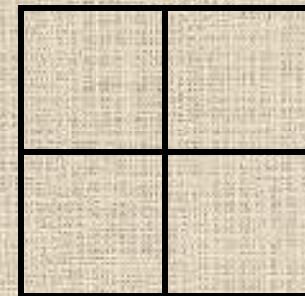
Consensus

- compromise
- conviction

Model: Jonsen '92

“4 Boxes”

1. Medical indications
2. Patient preferences
3. Quality of Life
4. Contextual features



Model: Aroskar '97

1. Review the overall situation.
2. Identify the significant facts.
3. ID stakeholders involved or affected.
4. ID relevant legal data.
5. ID specific conflicts of ethical principles or values.

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Model: Aroskar '97

6. ID possible choices and consequences.
7. ID practical constraints: legal,
organizational, political, economic.
8. Make recommendation for action.
9. Take action.
10. Review and evaluate after action.

Ethics in Global Engagements

What is different?

- austerity - paradox
- familiarity - culture
- focus - support systems
- scope

Ethics in Global Engagements

What is the same

- care
- actions
- decisions
- accountability
- patterns
- ADL requirements

Unique Ethical Dilemmas

- Remote location
- Power differential
- Important work
- Compassionate concern
- Communication challenges

Unique Ethical Dilemmas

- Cultural preferences
- Cultural practices
- Informed consent
- Commitment to mission

Ethics in Military Operations

Commitment to mission

- belief in purpose/methods
- alternatives
- duration
- causation